

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 131150Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 899

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 1357

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP, DA

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

1. DURING A DISCUSSION MAY 12 POLITICAL DIRECTOR BORCH
TOLD ME THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S RECENT DEMARCHES TO FONMIN
K.B. ANDERSEN ON SPAIN, AS WELL AS THE OPEN MANNER IN
WHICH WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH THE DANISH EM-
BASSY IN WASHINGTON, HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL. THE DANES
WOULD, HE SAID, BE GIVING US A CONSIDERED REPLY TO OUR
DEMARCHES, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT SAY WHEN. HE HAD,
HOWEVER, HAD THE OPPORTUNITY THAT DAY OF DISCUSSING
SPAIN BRIEFLY WITH THE FONMIN (WHO HAS BEEN OUT OF THE

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COUNTRY IN RECENT WEEKS ON VISITS TO EASTERN EUROPE AND

THE MIDDLE EAST). LIKE MOST SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, ANDERSEN HAD A STRONG DISTASTE FOR FRANCO SPAIN AND AN AVERSION TO ASSOCIATING IT WITH NATO, WHICH WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE A GROUPING OF LIKE-MINDED NATIONS.

2. I SAID WE WERE WELL AWARE OF THE FEELING OF THE OLDER EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TOWARD FRANCO BUT WE WERE ALSO ALERT TO THE FACT THAT CHANGES WERE TAKING PLACE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE IBERIAN PENINSULA, AND THERE WAS NO BLINKING THE FACT THAT SPAIN FORMED AN IMPORTANT PIECE IN THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE PICTURE.

3. BORCH INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY ACCEPTED THESE POINTS, BUT STRESSED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN HIS MINISTER'S VIEWPOINT COULD BE EXPECTED. HE WENT ON TO A DIFFERENT ARGUMENT, SAYING THAT DENMARK WAS PLEASED THAT ITS RELATIONS WITH SPAIN WERE FAIRLY GOOD AT THE MOMENT AND COULD SEE LITTLE UTILITY IN DOING ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THESE RELATIONS. I SAID THAT WE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT WANT TO HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOW AN ATTEMPT TO WEAVE SPAIN CLOSER INTO THE DEFENSE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC WOULD HARM THEM. HE DID NOT PURSUE THE POINT, CONCLUDING THAT HE INTENDS TO HAVE A FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH ANDERSEN THIS WEEK IN ORDER TO TRY TO ELICIT A FORMAL REPLY FOR US.

4. COMMENT: BORCH'S VOLUNTEERING THE STATEMENT THAT THE DANES WERE PLEASED WITH THE INFORMATION WE WERE PASSING TO THEM IN REGARD TO OUR THINKING ON SPAIN SHOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN TO INDICATE THAT THE PROFESSIONALS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WELCOME AMMUNITION IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO NUDGE THEIR MINISTER INTO A MORE ACCOMMODATING POSITION ON SPAIN. WHILE WE MAY NOT ACHIEVE OUR IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE, THE FACT THAT WE HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION SHOULD BE SALUTARY IN THE LONG RUN IN ENCOURAGING THE DANES -- AND PERHAPS OTHERS -- TO THINK BEYOND THEIR LONG-HELD PREJUDICES.

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